

A True-Protestant-Catechism,

Explaining the GROUNDS and METHODS

OF THE

True-Protestant-PLOT;

Set forth for Instruction of the Brethren in the Mystery of Whiggism.

Master. **W** *What Religion are you of?*
 Scholar. I am a True-Protestant.

Mastr. *What mean you by a True-Protestant?*

Schol. Him that Protesteth against the Abominations of Popery and Tyranny.

Mastr. *What is Popery, in a True-Protestant-sense?*

Schol. It is a Conformity to the Hierarchical Government and Discipline of the Church established by Law, whereby the Godly Party are ryed-up to Order and Unity, contrary to the Spirit and Genius of Reformation.

Mastr. *What is Tyranny in a True-Protestant-sense?*

Schol. 'Tis the exercise of Monarchical Government, according to the Rights inherent in the Crown, and confirmed by Law; whereby the free People of the Lord are brought under the Yoke of the Civil Magistrate, and humane Institutions.

Mastr. *Are all those who make Protestation against the above-named Popery and Tyranny, True-Protestants, and, as it were, One Man, tho' they differ never so much in Faith, Discipline, and Government from one another?*

Schol. Yes; They are so, by way of Comprehension, (or Combination) only till the common Enemy, (the King and Prelaticks) be removed.

Mastr. *How prove you this by Scripture?*

Schol. From the example of Sampson's Foxes, which, tho' turned Tail to Tail to one another, yet, by the help of a Fire-brand between each two, made shift to burn all the standing-Corn and Vineyards of the Philistines.

Mastr. *By what methods are the above-named Popery and Tyranny to be rooted out?*

Schol. First, by denouncing against, (that is, aspersing the Church of England, as infected with the Reliques of many Popish Superstitions, Rites of the Heathen, &c. and fixing on her Professors the Names of *Popish* in *Malquerade*, *Lip-worshippers*, *Ungodly*, *Unregenerate*, &c. 2^{dly}. By rendring His Majesty and Royal Family odious to the Nation. 3^{dly}. By incuscatating to the People, (that is, *amusing them with*) Fears and Jealousies of loosing their Liberties, forfeiting their Birth-rights, and forcing of their Consciences. 4^{thly}. By provoking the Mobile to their mutual Defence, (that is, to *Ryots and Tumults*) And lastly, By persuading them, that the Right of Government is Originally in Them; and that Slavery in this World, and

Damnation in the next, is their most assured Lot, unless they will once again remove the main Causes of Both, (*viz.*) the King and Prelaticks as the Enemies of the Gospel, who sin, and make Israel to sin.

Mastr. *By what ways and means are these Ends most effectually compassed?*

Schol. First By erecting and multiplying of Conventicles or Meeting-houses, (the Nurseries of Heresie and Rebellion) and placing in them Holders-forth, poor in Spirit, (that is, *Needy, Factions Fellows*) who by mysterious expounding, (that is, *Wresting and Perverting*) of Sacred Texts of Holy-Writ, by Sighs, Tears, & Prayers, (that is, *Groans, Grimaces and Hypocrisie*), by upright, (that is, *starch'd stiff*) forms of (Phanatick) Godliness, may draw the Sober, Trading-part of the Nation, out of their Errors, (that is, *intoxicate the Mechanick Vulgar out of a sense of Duty to God and the King*.) And by Preaching (that is, *Abusing*) of Gods Word, Gospel-Purity, and Thorow-Reformation, by degrees rectify Disorders, (that is, *undermine the Government of Church and State*) 2^{ly}, By promoting of (clamorous) Petitions, for redress of (unlimited and endless) Grievances. 3^{ly}, By challenging of (unaccountable and miscalled) Parliamentary Priviledges 4^{ly}, By complaining of (imaginary) Dangers from Arbitrary Powers, Popish Successors, Evil Counsellors, and Foreign Invasions. 5^{ly}, By writing, printing and publishing True-Protestant-Pamphlets, (that is, *Libels*.) 6^{ly}, By enlightening, (that is, *infatuating*) of well-disposed, (that is, *ambitious or male-contented*) Noble-men. 7^{ly}, By framing Consults, (that is, *Cabals*) Associations and Covenants. 8^{ly}, By forging & spreading of false News. 9^{ly}, By countenancing of True-French-Protestant-Anti-prelaticks, (that is, *Hugonot Vagabonds*.) 10^{ly}, By asserting, (that is, *devising*) of (hum)Plots, and awakening some not thoroughly reform'd (that is, *af-frighting well meaning Orthodox*.) Protestants, with hideous (feigned) stories of Fire, Blood, and Massacre, inevitably impending from huge (invisible) Swarms of English-Papists, Wild-Irish, Jago-Pilgrims, &c. armed with Black-Bills, New-d-Guns, Consecrated Daggers, Knives, Tormentilio's, and Tewxbury-Mustard-balls: all ripe and ready at 24 hours warning to overwhelm the Government, murder the King, and cut the Throats of all the Protestants in the three Nations.

Mastr.

Maſt. How are ſuch impoſſible and abſurd Plot-fictions to be rendered credible to the Vulgar?

Schol. By hiring of perjur'd Witneſſes, and raking out of Gaols Infamous Profligated Wretches, of loſt Conſciences, and deſperate Fortunes, to attend them; By charging (that is, *impoſing*) on the *Papiſts*, (tho' otherwiſe often experienc'd *Loyal*) Trayterous Principles; By woful Clamours and Out-cries of *Popiſh Cruelties*; By obtruding upon the Courts of Judicature *True-Proteſtant-Lawyers*, *True-Proteſtant-Sheriffs*, and *Ignoramus-Juries*; By ſtigmatizing thoſe with the Character of *Tories* and *Popiſhly-affected*, who ſhould dare to queſtion the Evidence; And laſtly, by involving in the ſame miſeries ſuch as ſhould any ways ſtand up in defence of (oppreſſed) Innocence.

Maſt. Are not theſe Proceedings ſomething ſcandalous; And may they not ſeem to the Unregenerate a little to leſſen the ſweet Odour of Sanctity, ſo much pretended to by the Godly Party?

Schol. No; For they are warranted by the example of the *Lords People*, who robbed the *Egyptians* of their Plate, and by ſtratagem allured them into the *Red-Sea*. And it is further a Scripture-Rule amongſt *True-Proteſtant-Believers*, That to the *Righteous and Clean* (as they only are) all things are clean, and nothing ſinful; But to the *Unclean* (as all others are) all things are unclean. And ſuch perſons retain no right either to Government, Liſe, or Eſtate, which *ipſo facto* becomes forfeit to Gods Elect, who are his free-born Children of Inheritance; According as it is written, *Caſt out the Bond-woman, &c.*

*Maſt. But when by the above-named godly meaſures (of Treasonable Invektives, and Schiſmatical Inſinuations) the People ſhall become cautious & tender of their Liberties and Religion, (that is, ſuſpicious of their Superiours, diſgusted at the Government, and wavering in their Duty and Obedience to the King and Church;) When by fore-warnings and bearing of Teſtimony (that is, by Calumnies, Shams and Forgeries) Perſons ſlow of belief (that is, well-meaning Proteſtants) ſhall be made ſenſible of their imminent danger from *Popiſh Murders, Maſſacres and Invaſions*, (that is, har'd out of their wits with frightful Chymæra's & groundleſs Phantaſms of ſhooting, ſtabbing, poiſoning the King, and deſtroying the Nation by Fire and Sword;) When they ſhall be at length perſwaded (that is, deluded) ſo far as daily to expect *Popiſh Armies* at their Doors, *Popiſh Daggers* at their Breasts, & *Knives* at their Throats: What follows after? What uſe will be made of this (hellish) Contrivance (barbarouſly caſt on guiltleſſ perſons?) How will it be apply'd to the advantage of the *True-Proteſtant-Interſt*?*

Schol. The Brethren aſſociated for that end are then actually to perform *Theſelves* what they (inhumanely) forged upon Others; And whilſt mens fancies are filled with (falſe) Ideas of *Popiſh Treasons, Murders, and Maſſacres*,

the ſame Exploits, (that is, *bloody Villainies*) muſt be really committed by the *Diſſemmers* on the Sacred Perſon of the King; on the Duke of York; on the *Papiſts*; and on *Orthodox-Proteſtants*, (*viz. Church-of-England men*) as *Popiſhly-affected*. The cry muſt run, *The Popiſh-Plot is broke out*, (and who ſhall dare to gainſay it?) The Nation muſt be allarm'd to ſtand on their Guard; Every man encouraged and authorized to take up Arms, (and ſo both City and Countrey expoſed to the Pillage and Rapine of lawleſs Souldiers) A Noble-man, (one who (alas!) hath a double title to the Character of a *Natural*) muſt be a while ſet up for a Stalking-horſe to the Party; And laſtly, (as the main drift and ſcope of all this Godly Policy) the Government of Church and State muſt be reformed according to the Model of *Geneva*, (that is, after much Treason, Blood and Confuſion, be turned into an inſupportable Slavery, under the Name of a *True-Proteſtant-Commonwealth*).

Maſt. This projeſt ſeems ſecurely laid; yet how are theſe Treasons, Murders, Rapines, &c. to be proved lawful, and eaſie for the practice of True-Proteſtant-tender-Conſciences?

Schol. By the ſeveral examples of the People of *Israel*, who caſt out the *Canaanites, Jebuſites, &c.* and poſſeſſed themſelves of the Land of Promise; Of *Abimelech*, who ſlew his Brethren at *Ephra*; Of the Sons of *Levi*, who by *Moses* command conſecrated their hands in the Blood of three thouſand of their Companions, whereupon they received the Bleſſing; Of *Judiſh*, who cut off *Holofernes*'s Head. And it is alſo written of the Saints, *They ſhall bind their Kings with Chains, and their Nobles with Fetters of Iron, &c.*

Maſt. But what if ſome ſniſter Accident, (that is, Divine Providence, which formerly in ſo miraculous a manner preſerved and reſtored His Sacred Majeſty) ſhould now again lay open the Brethrens Intentions; fruſtrate their Deſigns; prevent the Nations Ruine; and bring the Aſſociators, (that is, the Traytors and Aſſaſſines) to (condign) Punishment.

Schol. We know Sufferings are common to the Saints: In ſuch a caſe, ſome muſt confidently (that is, *impudently*) diſown the Fact, tho' never ſo palpably proved; Some muſt fly from Juſtice, and, like Rats, forſake the ſinking Veſſel; Some again ('tis feared) will recant, and turn *Tories*, (that is, *honest men*); And finally, others ('tis hoped) will, like true *Scotch-Cargilites*, or *Biſhop-of-St.-Andrews-men*, at the very Gallows, boldly acknowledge and glory in their (horrid) Atchievment, perſevering (as did alſo ſome of the old *English Regicides*) to the laſt gasp in defiance of Authority: and by ſuch *True-Proteſtant-Fortitude* deſerve to be eternally regiſtred amongſt the *Red-letter'd Saints* in the Kalendar of *Fox's Martyrs*.

F I N I S.